AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

FOOD COSTS INCREASE 83 P. C. IN 5 YEARS

Boston, March 22.—The price of food has increased 83 per cent in five years, to November, last year, reports the national industrial conference board in a pamphlet entitled "War Time Changes in the Cost of Living." The board represents 2,000 men and manufacturing associations.

The board states that during the war clothing has increased 77 per cent and woolens 190 per cent. In cottons the increase showed the most striking advance—264.4 per cent. Overalls at 72 cents in 1914 averaged $1.31 in November, 1918, and men's shoes that sold for $3.50 in 1914 cost $5 and $6 in November, 1918.

The board has prepared a clothing budget for men and women—wage earners, of course—as no attempt is made to tabulate the needs of other classes.

In 1914 the cost of the man's budget would be $16.70, and in 1918 this increased $4.07, or 90.3 per cent.

In 1914 the cost of the woman's budget would be $12.19, and in 1918 this cost increased to $160.40, or 59.1 per cent.

Anthracite coal advanced 42.9 per cent between 1914 and 1918, and bituminous coal for household use increased 59.2 per cent.

The advances in the cost of various items in the family budget were: Food, 83 per cent; shelter, 20 per cent; clothing, 84 per cent; fuel and light, 25 per cent; sundries, 55 per cent. The average increase for all items is 65.9 per cent.

While workers will insist that these estimates are too low, the figures indicate the reduced purchasing power of a dollar since the beginning of the war.

BOSSES BREAK PROMISE.

Washington, March 22.—The national war labor board conference in Maryland and Street company, Hagerstown, Md., because that concern violated a pledge that was effective to labor conditions. The board says:

"This company was doing work for the government, and at a most critical time during the war it accepted the employees and this board that it'll desired to carry out the principles of this board and would deal with committees of the employes. This promise it later flouted in that it refuses to be greatly to be regretted that, at a time when it is highly important that the relations of employer and employe should be maintained on a friendly basis, this company would have committed no flagrant a breach of good faith as to refuse, and although the case is not one of joint submission which permits the board to make a binding award, it is the plan of the board in the case without expressing severe condemnation of such conduct on the part of the company."

SPY SYSTEM DENOUNCED.

Washington, March 22.—The national war labor board has denounced the spy system of the Third Avenue Railway company, New York. The board recommends:

"All of the employes of this company should be free to organize and to join such unions as they choose. The company should have no contact with its employes in the exercise of this right. Espionage, whether by state police activities, espionage by agents and representatives of the company, investigation of employes by officials of the company, and like actions, the effect of which is to discourage and prevent the employes from exercising this right of organization, should be abolished as interference with their rights.

The evidence submitted fully supports the charge that the officials of the Third Avenue Railway company are violating the principles of the national war labor board in not permitting their employes to join such labor unions as they choose."

STRIKE MEASURE DEAD.

Olympia, Wash., March 22.—The state senate has killed the Myers bill, which provided that before a strike could be called the union should hold an election under control of public election officials, and 10 days' notice be given. The author of the bill said it would take the labor unions out of the hands of "radical leaders." Trade unionists showed these senators that what was much given responsibility by a union he becomes more cautious, as do men in every other walk of life. The senate saw a great light and for the first time realized that workingmen are not different from other classes. The bill was defeated by a vote of 27 to 11.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Kokomo, Ind., March 22.—Organized stove mounters have raised wages 20 per cent and secured the eight-hour day.

Indianapolis, March 22.—An eight-hour day and a 22 per cent wage increase has been secured by the Stove Mounters' union.

Detroit, Mich., March 22.—Officers of the Stove Mounters' International union report a large number of localities where wages have been increased and the eight-hour day established.

ACCEPT CLAYTON LAW.

Olympia, Wash., March 22.—The state legislature has passed an anti-injunction law, based upon the federal Clayton law declaration that the labor of a human being is not a commodity. The act recognizes the right of workers to bargain collectively and provides courts in this state from issuing injunctions against strikers unless it shows that irreparable damage to property or property rights is impending.

AGREE TO UNION SHOP.

Wallingford, Conn., March 22.—The W. A. Ives company has signed a union-shop agreement with the Machinists' union. It is claimed that this is the only hardware manufacturing concern in this state that is operating on the union-shop basis.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK.

St. Louis, Mo., March 22.—All shops in this city under jurisdiction of the United Garment Workers have accepted the 44-hour week.

RETAIL CLERKS GAIN.

Portland, Ore., March 22.—Retail Clerks' union has secured the signature of nearly 100 store proprietors to a new agreement.

TRADE UNION GIRLS REJECT "UPLIFTERS"

Des Moines, Iowa, March 22.—"Pretty as a picture" stage and movie "don't need your cheap rooming houses," is the answer of trade union girls to the attempt of local "uplifters" to erect a girls' home in this city.

These girls, members of Retail Clerks' association No. 36, have declared themselves as follows:

"We, the Retail Clerks' association, strongly oppose the girls' hotel, because it only handicaps and does not come a victim of charity in any form.

"If the employer will pay the girls the salary they duly earn, there will be no need for such a cheap rooming house. For each working girl a reasonable salary; let her room in a place suited to her temperament that she will then be more cheerful, and able to do much better work for her firm. Room in the environments of a home, and the home influence have a tendency to refine and educate; while hotel life is just the opposite.

"Noting the committee appointed to promote the hotel, we find they are the ones working to keep the wages down. Therefore, we condemn the plans of the working girls' hotel."

OPPOSE ILLITERACY.

Chicago, March 22.—Education in a democracy is the most important function of the government, said the department of superintendence, National Education association, at a meeting held in this city.

Resolutions insisted that "our democracy shall be kept safe for the world, and we demand resolute and determined measures that shall eradicate illiteracy from all sections of the country." It is urged that the complete Americanization of all native and foreign born residents is the paramount duty of the hour, and that the leadership of this movement should be assumed by the public schools.

"In view of the fact that 20 per cent of those examined for military or naval service in the late war were found to be illiterate, therefore we call for federal, state and local programs which shall provide adequate physical training for all the youths of the nation."

The meeting also favored the creation of an international commission on education.

MORE REGULATION.

Winnipeg, Canada, March 22.—A bill has been introduced in the Manitoba legislature which will be used as a model by the state legislatures of the United States. The bill provides for the regulation of employment agencies. Premier Norris is behind the bill and talks long and earnestly about "regulation" and "control" through this commission.

Organized labor is in favor of conciliation boards, but not the kind that will restrict their powers. The trades and labor council of Winnipeg opposes and suggests to affiliates that if the bill passes trade unionists refuse to accept membership on the commission.

HIGH SHIPPING PROFITS.

New York, March 22.—Last year's profits of the American International corporation are so stupendous that no attention is paid to the seamen's law, which is invariably the cause of dissatisfaction when a shipping company makes big profits.

The corporation reports earnings of $7,946,547 with net returns of $2,716,279 on a total capitalization of $54,000,000, of which only 40 per cent has been paid in.

This means that if a man subscribed for $1,000 of stock in this corporation, he paid but $600, and this investment returned in one year a profit of $271.

The corporation owns the Hog Island ship yards, and are holdings in the Pacific Mail company, the International Mercantile marine and other shipping concerns.

WORKERS VICTIMIZED.

Washington, March 22.—The national board for the settlement of labor in the American Hide and Leather company case, Badger State Tanning company, of Sheboygan, Wis., has found the victimizing employes who attempt to organize. The board says:

"The evidence shows that the organization of the employes into a trade union was bitterly opposed by the companies, in violation of the board's principles, and that this attitude was responsible for the discharge of the complainants. This violation of the principles of this board should cease. We further recommend the reinstatement of employes discharged because of union membership and union activities."

TO OUST CHARITY GRAFTING.

Albany, N. Y., March 22.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature to end charity grafting. Under the bill a charity promoter will have to secure permission from the state before he begin, with a public accounting afterwards.

The bill is the result of an expose of charity irregularities during the war, when millions of dollars were filched from the public. In a report to the United States senate these promoters were referred to as "men who never lost a job, took all the money, to "we boys," who spent most of the money but everything they could reach.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Hazleton, Pa., March 22.—Charles P. Nilell, chairman of the anthracite conciliation board has sustained the contentions of the engineers, firemen and oranesmen of steam shovels operated by the G. B. Markle company that they are entitled to an eight-hour day with a 2 per cent wage increase. The award, retroactive to May 1, 1918, carries with it thousands of dollars in back pay due on war time earnings and applies to 1,000 employes all over the anthracite field.

RAISE REFUSED PAINTERS.

Norwalk, Conn., March 22.—Contracting painters have refused a higher wage demand of Painters' union No. 537. These workers are asking that rates be advanced from $4.50 a day to $5.50. The employers agree that living costs are higher, but state that they were considering the advisability of reducing wages.

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

Ottawa, Canada, March 22.—A government garden which will immediately be made into statutory law by parliament, invests the soldier settlement, board with both authority and the necessary funds for the purchase or lease of suitable farms immediate settlement by Canadian soldiers. The board is also empowered to purchase stock, equipment and building material for sale to settlers. Rules are to fix the purchase price to the board. As far as possible, the soldier will select his own farm, the price being subject to supervision by the board. The soldier must pay 10 per cent of the purchase price in cash and not more than $4,500 must be left outstanding and owing the board at the time of sale. Where soldiers have had farm experience in Canada, or who are otherwise qualified or equipped for farming, and who are unable to pay the 10 per cent, this amount may be waived by the board. The purchase price must be in 25 annual installments, or at the rate of $200 per year, with a 5 per cent interest charge.

Every care is taken that the soldier shall not be made the victim of aggressive or unscrupulous salesmanship and that the assistance intended for him is not diverted to the enrichment of some one else.

While the government order does not provide for the seizure of land, parliament is expected to give this power to the board where an owner refuses to sell at a fair price.

CO-OP. CAUTION URGED.

Bakersfield, Cal., March 22.—Success under co-operative ownership is quite the exception rather than the rule, declares if the common danger signals observed by all careful business men are heeded, Editor Harris of the Union Labor Journal, who urges that the lessons and experience be the guide for this movement.

"Co-operation, a few years ago, was the favorite play ground of the dreamers and visionaries," he says.

"The most common cause for failure of co-operative enterprises is that they have become too expensive from the beginning, because of an attempt to do too many things and to serve too many widely different interests.

"A co-operative association will soon find as assaults intended in trying to conduct several different lines of business as a corporation. None but the most firmly established corporations undertake to conduct more than one or two distinct lines of business.

"Most co-operative associations will be guided by the experience of successful business enterprises, conducted either by private individuals or corporations, they can and will succeed."

SUGAR RULES FAILED.

Washington, March 22.—United States food administration rules to conserve sugar during the war failed, according to testimony of heads of the American Sugar Refining company. In his annual report that official said the consumption of sugar ran high notwithstanding the limitations imposed by conservation regulations. The people have consumed in 1918 an amount almost equal to the yearly average of the last decade. The production has approximated 10,000 tons a day, or at the rate of 3,650,000 tons, month, which is about the average normal consumption during the past ten years. While it is true the people have stinted themselves, yet the rationing has been acted as a stimulus for others, to buy.

"The saving effected by conservation has been in the matter of coarse offset by the increased purchases of the American people, who, because given to sugar restrictions, bought more than they otherwise would."

QUITS UNION FIGHT.

New York, March 22.—Solomon Fahrer, member of the executive committee of the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' association, has withdrawn from that body and signed an agreement with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union for a 44-hour week and wage increases. The association is resisting the union demand, all other manufacturers accepting the agreement. President Schlesinger of the international union predicts that the association will collapse and that the union will soon be successful.

Harry A. Gordon, attorney for the association and director general in the anti-union fight, is still warlike and declares the association will resist until the last dollar is exhausted. Mr. Gordon declares that the agreement is vested, and is only a hired man.

COMPANY "UNION" TOTTERS.

Portland, Ore., March 22.—Wages are being increased in the lumber industry and employes are urged by timber barons to join the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen. The timber workers are having their eyes opened. The legion, organized largely by General Disque, head of the government's spruce division of its air service during the war, established in one of those mutual admiration institutions that give all power to the board of directors, which is selected by employers and employed.

Not a single union man was appointed to the board.

STOP SHIP BUILDING.

Washington, March 22.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels has ordered the immediate suspension of the building of large battle cruisers because the war has created a difference of opinion, Congress expected to be the purchaser of vessel that will be necessary in the future. Because of these differences of opinion, and the large amount of money involved (approximately $300,000,000) Secretary Daniels, together with other navy officials will visit Europe to study the question.

TEXTILE WORKERS WIN.

York, Pa., March 22.—Textile workers employed by the Dery corporation have been granted a wage increase. The principle of collective bargaining is acknowledged and other working conditions are assured.

STAGE MEN TO MEET.

New York, March 22.—The convention of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators will be held at Ottawa, Canada, beginning Monday, May 26.

IRON MOLDERS WIN.

Akron, Ohio, March 22.—Striking iron molders has secured a wage agreement with the Taplin-Clerkin-Rice company and it is believed that other concerns will accept the new rates.

EMPLOYERS WARNED; WAGE INCREASES DUE

London, England, March 22.—Reports from all parts of England, and leading liberal publications, continues to warn employers that they must appreciate new viewpoints of labor if social unrest is to be minimized.

"We cannot repeat too often," says this newspaper in a leading editorial, "that all the various sections of organized labor are united on the broad principle that the workers are to have a greater share than they have had in the product of industry. The question is how this increased share is to be found. Is it to be found in a reduction of this production of this country—and it is necessary that it should be increased if life is to be more worth living—or do they want to get the increase for themselves at the expense of the vast bulk of it. Now the question is not theirs. Are the employers going into the conference ready for the employers' proposals? If they hope to escape them in a cloud of words, then any triumph will be temporary and will be but a short lived. These principles, we assert without fear of contradiction, are held by almost the whole of organized labor; the only difference is as to the means by which they are to be put into facts. It may not be very pleasant for the employers to have to face these things. But unless and until they do admit them, the chance of a peace by negotiation that will be permanent is remote indeed."

LONG HOURS HARMFUL.

Washington, March 22.—The national war labor board told the management of the Williamsport (Pa.) Passenger railway company that it ought to know. In adjusting a controversy at this plant between the company and its employes, the board said:

"The evidence discloses that the work performed is monotonous in nothing than, laborers, bookkeeper, or person of similar grade of employment, including foremen, but not including superintendents, managers or officers."

Agricultural laborers and domestic servants are excluded from the operation of the provision, as are employes of the federal and state governments as well as employes of municipalities.

The bill provides for local mutual funds administered by boards of directors composed of an equal number of workmen and employers, with the chairman chosen by both. These boards will establish premium rates for their respective trades. It is estimated that the cost of this insurance will be about 2 per cent a week from the employer and the employe. All employes in the state will be covered and the insurance will follow a worker to any part of the state if he desires to change employment and can seek employment. The state federation of labor has indorsed the bill.

ILLITERACY A MENACE.

Washington, March 22.—In urging legislation that will eradicate illiteracy in the United States, the United States bureau of education says:

"Striking at the very heart of the need for the work have been voluntarily contributed daily by scores of agencies. The federal government has shown the relation of labor removed to the menace of illiteracy and unassimilated foreign born. The surgeon general's department has made a record regarding illiteracy in the national army, making the problem much blacker than ever before by showing that 24.9 per cent of the draftees were classed as being unable to read a newspaper or write in letter forms. The work in the mines has demonstrated the connection between illiteracy and unproduction in the mines with illiteracy."

POLISHERS STRIKE.

Dubuque, Iowa, March 22.—President Britton of the Metal Polishers' International union, failed to adjust a strike of polishers against the Brunswick-Blake-Colender company, this city, because of refusal of both the workers in a collective capacity. The strike was called when the company refused to grant wages workers be increased. Rates are 27½-2, 35, 40 cents and upward. Another grievance is a wage cut, and the employes were told that if they were dissatisfied they could quit. The men then organized and the company attempted to break the strike by saying that if a wage increase was being contemplated, but before the new war established nothing could be done.

URGE 30-HOUR WEEK.

Indianapolis, March 22.—A six-hour work day and a 30-hour week standard and nationalization of coal mines was urged by Frank J. Hayes, president of the United Mine Workers of America in his address at the opening session of the public utilities section of the organization. The trade unionist called attention to the unnecessary risk the hazards of employment under the present ownership. In urging wage increases he cited the high cost of living and the lack of opportunity for miners to make an average wage because of idleness at the mines.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Madison, Wis., March 22.—The state senate has called for the people's opinion, and by the concurrent action of both houses the question of a referendum on the question of women's right to vote will be submitted to the people next year.

Indianapolis, March 22.—A constitutional amendment granting women presidential suffrage was passed by the Indiana legislature, just adjourned.

TOBACCO PROFITS BIG.

New York, March 22.—The earnings of the tobacco companies during the last year were the most sensational in its history. The earnings amount to $61,000,000, which is equivalent to about $22 a share for the common stock. The company declared that it has lear tobacco to the amount of $10,000,000 on hand.

CARPENTERS STRIKE.

Denver, March 22.—Carpenters are striking to enforce a wage increase from $6 to $7 a day. Many building firms are paying the new rate and the unions say it's only a question of time until every employer is in the fold.

FIGHTING FOR EIGHT HOURS.

New York, March 22.—The United Textile Workers is the latest organization to make a country-wide fight for the eight-hour day and they say that every assistance be given them. Thirty thousand of these workers—men, women and children—at Columbus, Ga., Graniteville and Warrenville, S. C., including other sections of the south, and a few places in the north, were locked out on February 1 because they insisted on an eight-hour day.

Officers of the United Textile Workers say that 95 per cent of textile workers, especially in the south, are always within one week from the bread line because of long hours and low wages.

"Sixty hours a week prevail in the south," the unionists say. "The task of fe for eight hours in the east and north has been won by the textile workers, and the south is swept aside by the selfish employers, including the employers of Maine, who are evidently just as despotic and autocratic as the mill barons of the south. Many of these manufacturers have declared that they will keep their mills closed until the workers are starved into submission.

"America sent her sons over there to crush autocracy and make the world safe for democracy. Shall we permit industrial autocracy to exist here?"

Many thousands of textile workers have been employed for over two months on a 55-hour basis and a 50-hour a week, and yet these manufacturers say they cannot grant the 48-hour week.

AMERICA STILL EXISTS.

Madison, Wis., March 22.—America still exists and we can still go and take any action that is not reviewed able by the courts, declared A. R. Hall, Madison attorney general, before the state supreme court in discussing the anti-picketing law. Referring to Postmaster General Burleson that he has the sole power to determine what is

"Constructed, as we suppose they must be constructed," said the attorney general, "this statement and the said statement that the postmaster general possesses arbitrary powers in the conduct of this telephone business. But this is still America, a virtuous democracy, not a conquered America. The time has not yet come when the man in the street may step away into"the clouds like the magic carpet in the fairy tale. We possess still the power of the president, we submit, outside of military law or martial law, autocratic or martial law are one and the same thing."

URGE SERVICE REFORMS.

Washington, March 22.—Ex-Congressman Keating, a member of a commission to reclassify salaries of the postoffice employes, in a report declares that an opportunity should be given to these employes to win promotions by their own merit. The present system, while protecting government employes from political spoilsmen, makes promotion, he says, merit, often out of the question.

"There is absolutely no reason," said the ex-congressman, "why members of congress should be appealed to in behalf of postoffice promotions in the government service."

The members of the commission are Senator Kenyon, of New Mexico, chairman; Henderson of Nevada and Keating of Colorado, and Congressmen Keating of Colorado, secretary; Cooper of Wisconsin and Dyer of Missouri. The congressional terms of the last three expired March 4, last.

TROLLEY STRIKE ENDS.

Newark, N. J., March 22.—A strike of organized street car men against the Public Service Railroad company has ended by the company agreeing to meet grievances committee, the questions will be referred to the national war labor board. Thousands of employes were involved and traffic in scores of New Jersey cities was tied up by the strike and many shorter hours, time and one-half for overtime and recognition of the union.

When the strike was over President McCarter of the company issued a statement to the public. Some of the workers were at first disposed to continue the strike on account of this claim, but they realized that the official should not be blamed for "trying to save face."

WANT WOMEN REINSTATED.

Washington, March 22.—The national war labor board has announced its reinstatement of 64 Cleveland women conductors on the street car lines in that city. The board made no comment on the general plan of women employed on street cars, but confined itself to this specific case.

It is announced from Cleveland that Mayor Stanley of the Cleveland railway company will ignore the rulings of the war labor board and sign an agreement with the city and the Street Car Men's union to employ only women conductors after March 1.

SERVICE WILL FUNCTION.

Washington, March 22.—Although the United States employment service has been reduced to skeleton form because of the failure of congress to make necessary appropriations, the national machinery for placing seasonal workers in agriculture and suitable employment will continue to function, it was announced today. It is held together until congress meets in extra session and provides funds to carry on the work. By the time that congress to act the service has been cut down 90 per cent.

BIG PROFITS IN OIL.

New York, March 22.—While southwestern organized oil workers are objecting to a small increase recently awarded them, the California Petroleum corporation announces that last year it made a clear profit of $6,381,000. This is a jump from $1,758,695, the profits made in 1917.

DEFEAT CHILD LABOR BILL.

Denver, March 22.—The state legislature has defeated a bill which would prohibit the employment of children under 14 years in the beet fields of Colorado.

CULINARY WORKERS UNITE.

Galesburg, Ill., March 22.—Hotel and restaurant employes have been organized and affiliated with the bona fide union movement.

FORCE IS NO REMEDY FOR SOCIAL UNREST

Chicago, March 22.—Matthew Woll, president of the International Photo Engravers' union and editor of the American Photo Engraver, gives this advice to lawmakers:

"Yes, we may depot a few hundred or thousand foreign agitators from our land. We may enact further repressive legislation and then recline in the happy thought that all disturbers of the peace are forever restrained and disposed of. We may even force the settlement of every labor dispute of any kind in the injunctive writ of the courts. But that will not quiet the unrest or assure domestic tranquility. Indeed, repression only begets a more turbulence and a more dangerous manifestation of unrest and ultimately leads to a condition when reason is swept aside by passions of a violent temper. Russian autocrate have tried that method and Russia is reaping its full reward today. German rulers have also tried it and Germany today is paying the price.

"Just as surely evil act is bound to reap its deserving punishment sooner or later and every virtuous act to bring its just reward, so is a liberal and evasive congress will share the responsibility for failure to live up to the demands of the present time.

"If we are to bridge this period of reconstruction safely and in an orderly and peaceful way, if we are to maintain democracy and civil liberty and if our "good people in the United States congress hope to continue in their enjoyment of the comforts and emoluments of public office, they must stop playing politics and enact the much needed legislation which will put an end to profiteering in the full hours of toil, and at wages commensurate with our American standard of living."

LOANS FOR BUILDING.

Ottawa, Canada, March 22.—The Dominion government is anxious that returned soldiers take advantage of a $35,000,000 loan for housing purposes. In a memorandum issued to the provincial governments, Dominion officials say the purpose of this loan is "to put the machinery of all working men, particularly returned soldiers, in opportunities to acquire, build or own homes at actual cost of the building and land acquired at a fair value, thus maintaining the profit of the speculator, and to contribute to the general welfare and better use of the community by encouraging suitable town planning and housing schemes."

The loans will be repayable to the Dominion government over a period of years. They may be extended to 30 years if it is necessary to encourage the building of more substantial structures. These buildings are to be erected at moderate cost. It is thought a scheme of provision should be made for reserving at least one-tenth of the area of land to be developed for building purposes as playgrounds, recreation parks, and also for reserving suitable sites for such institutes, public buildings and stores as may be required.

CUBA HOLDS WORKERS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 22.—On motion of Senator Iglesias, the Porto Rican senate has asked Washington authorities to investigate the detention at Havana of 200 Porto Rican cigarmakers who went to Cuba in the interest of several thousand Porto Rican locked out cigarmakers employed by the Porto Rican-American tobacco company. The resolutions request the department of state to intervene in behalf of the Porto Rican workers, but his colleagues favored referring the matter to the senate rather than become involved themselves.

Senators turned this refusal against senators who are demanding that Porto Rico shall be set free, declaring that while they ignore deplorable economic conditions in this island, "How fortunate," said the trade unionist, "that we have a big brother at this time."

The locked out cigarmakers are affiliated with the Cigarmakers' International union, with headquarters in Chicago, Ill.

WINNING EIGHT HOURS.

Cincinnati, March 22.—Officers of the Metal Polishers' International union report eight-hour successes in many localities. Among the concerns that company, stove manufacturers of Aurora, Ill., has changed from nine to eight hours, with increased earnings; the Vortex Stove and Range company, Peoria, Ohio, has adopted the eight-hour system, as have several large shops in Belleville, Ill., and the Carr & Procter Store company, Peoria, Ill.

Chicago, March 22.—The Arnold-Schwinn company has signed a new agreement with the Metal Polishers' union No. 6. Rates are advanced from 50 cents per hour to 62½ and 67 per cent on motorcycle work.

ARMY GAS MASK USELESS.

Washington, March 22.—Another warning that any gas mask yet developed for protection against poison gases of the Germans are useless in civil employments, has been made public by Surgeon General Ireland on the basis of reports of injuries to firemen and miners who have attempted to use the mask in their work.

The field of civil usefulness of the mask, it is said, will be found confined to certain chemical industries around which are stores of ammonia or sulphur fumes are given off and in industries using chlorine and bleaching powders.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Washington, March 22.—The National Federation of Federal Employes announces that local have been recently formed in the following legislative districts: Ogden, Utah; Salt Lake, Utah; Key Bank, N. J.; Malta, Mont.; Evansville, Ind.; Terre Haute, Ind.; Rockford, Ill.; Fort Riley, Kan., and Riverside, Cal. Since the last convention 11 locals have been formed.

GIRLS STAND TOGETHER.

Boston, March 22.—Organized telephone operators have voted to support the strike of girls employed by the downtown exchange of the Bell company, declared the removal of a traffic chief, Miss Mary Sullivan, and a desire to intimidate the girls into quitting their union.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Clinton, Iowa, March 22.—Typographical union No. 224 has secured a new wage agreement with newspaper and commercial shops in this city. Rates are advanced $1 a week for day men and $1.50 a week for night men. An additional dollar a week will be paid until the expiration of the contract.

NOLAN BOMB CHARGES DISMISSED BY COURT

San Francisco, March 22.—All charges against Edward D. Nolan, one of the defendants in the preparedness day bomb cases, have been dismissed and his bail bonds have been returned. He was charged with making the bomb that destroyed the lives of 10 persons and injured 40 others on July 22, 1916. At the time of the explosion he was an attendant at the International convention of the International Association of Machinists. On his return to this city he was thrown into an eight murder charge. Subsequently two of the men died as a result of the explosion, but no indictments were brought against him.

Nolan was never brought to trial, but was held in jail for nine months before he was released on bail. The police acknowledged they had no evidence to justify a trial.

Nolan is the first of the five defendants to be cleared of all connection with the bomb explosion. Warren K. Billings was tried first and sentenced to life imprisonment. Thomas J. Mooney was sentenced to be hanged, but his sentence commuted to life imprisonment. Mrs. Rena Mooney and Israel Weinberg acquitted on their first trials, and the cases are held pending trial on other indictments.

VIEWS OF BUSINESS MEN.

Boston, March 22.—The National Civic Federation, composed of business and professional men, has published the result of a vote of its members on industrial problems. Four hundred ballots were cast on the questions, the following are a few of the decisions:

Should a league of nations have a permanent court? Yes 376, no 16.

Should the principle of self determination be applied to Russia when order has been restored?—Yes 358, no 42.

Should greater restrictions be imposed upon immigration and emigration among the nations? Yes 258, no 84.

Should states sacrifice some of their sovereignty to the course of justice and peace? Yes 275, no 64.

Should we encourage permanent alliance with European and Asiatic nations? Yes 160, no 167.

Is the sovereign right to maintain large armies and navies of much value to the various nations entering into a league of nations to maintain permanent peace? Yes 24, no 252.

Should there be an international labor program? Yes 146, no 146.

Should the principle of the Monroe doctrine be applied to South America as a military protectorate until there is a stabilized government free from revolution? Infavor 187, no 128.

Should there be an international program of social insurance? Yes 93, no 158.

Should the so-called rule of the proletariat be forbidden by the fundamental principles of constitution of the league of nations? Yes 41, no 310.

Should the seas be "free" in war and peace alike? Yes, 136, no 132.

Should the United States remember the control of the Panama canal in the interest of freedom of the seas? Yes 75, no 257.

Will the proposed league of nations put the Monroe doctrine in jeopardy? Yes 89, no 238.

LABOR PARTY FAVORED.

Chicago, March 22.—The Illinois state federation of labor has embodied a referendum throughout the state on the question of organizing a labor party. Reports were returned from 26 unions affiliated with the state body, and 1,000 locally affiliated unions. The vote of the affiliates was 7,000 for a labor party and 1,000 against; total, 17,444. The vote of the unaffiliated unions was: For labor party, 2,721; against, 2,561. This vote was divided as follows: Affiliated with A. F. of L., 1,000 votes; 1,000 local unions; against, 34 local unions. Unaffiliated with A. F. of L., 1,348 votes; against; total, 17,444. The vote of the unaffiliated unions was: For labor party, 1,721; against, 2,561. This vote was divided as follows: Affiliated with A. F. of L., 1,000 votes; 1,000 local unions; against, 34 local unions. Unaffiliated with A. F. of L., 1,348 votes; against, 1,383.

The combined vote was: For, 2,721; against, 2,561. This vote was divided as follows: Affiliated with A. F. of L., 1,000 votes; 1,000 local unions; against, 34 local unions. Unaffiliated with A. F. of L., 1,348 votes; against, 1,383.

PROFITEERING IN COAL.

London, England, March 22.—A government report on the coal industry has confirmed the miners' charge of profiteering by the coal owners, mine owners and the government.

Before the government inquiry, Secretary Straker of the Northumberland Miners' association, quoted the following figures: The capital invested in the mines had been nationalized in 1913 the owners paid a fair price in government bonds the purchase would have been cleared off by now by the profits. The average for 1914 and 1917 per cent on motorcycle work.

ARMY GAS MASK USELESS.

Washington, March 22.—Another warning that any gas mask yet developed for protection against poison gases of the Germans are useless in civil employments, has been made public by Surgeon General Ireland on the basis of reports of injuries to firemen and miners who have attempted to use the mask in their work.

The field of civil usefulness of the mask, it is said, will be found confined to certain chemical industries around which are stores of ammonia or sulphur fumes are given off and in industries using chlorine and bleaching powders.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Washington, March 22.—The National Federation of Federal Employes announces that local have been recently formed in the following legislative districts: Ogden, Utah; Salt Lake, Utah; Key Bank, N. J.; Malta, Mont.; Evansville, Ind.; Terre Haute, Ind.; Rockford, Ill.; Fort Riley, Kan., and Riverside, Cal. Since the last convention 11 locals have been formed.

GIRLS STAND TOGETHER.

Boston, March 22.—Organized telephone operators have voted to support the strike of girls employed by the downtown exchange of the Bell company, declared the removal of a traffic chief, Miss Mary Sullivan, and a desire to intimidate the girls into quitting their union.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Clinton, Iowa, March 22.—Typographical union No. 224 has secured a new wage agreement with newspaper and commercial shops in this city. Rates are advanced $1 a week for day men and $1.50 a week for night men. An additional dollar a week will be paid until the expiration of the contract.

BOOST FOR SOLDIERS.

Washington, March 22.—Soldiers and sailors of the United States army and navy will be given preference in the civil service of the government, according to a bill introduced in the house by Representative Kahn, of California.

GET BIG COURT AWARD.

East St. Louis, Ill., March 22.—H. C. Richards, a switchman employed on the Illinois Central railroad at this terminal, has secured an award of $20,000 against the road. He lost a leg and other injuries. He was caught between two freight cars.

PICKET LABOR AGENCY.

Toledo, Ohio, March 22.—Trade unionists are picketing an employment agency maintained by the Manufacturers and Manufacturers' association in opposition to the United States employment service.